



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Digital at NAL

Eleanor Frierson
Deputy Director
National Agricultural Library

National Digital Strategy Advisory Board
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The NAL Context

- NAL has a dual mission, to serve as the library of USDA and as a national library
- Historically NAL has digitized publications in order to provide access to them
- NAL is working towards the creation of a National Digital Library for Agriculture (NDLA), with a focus on partnerships and distributed collections



The NAL Context

- Need to digitize and/or preserve texts, images, moving images, databases
- Historical “specific project” approach needs to evolve into overall program approach developed with partners as part of NDLA
- Look to NDIIP as an important way to set standards and best practices for preservation



NAL Historical Digitization Activities

1985-1987 – 12” laserdisk

Pork Industry Handbook

1987 – CD-ROM

National Agricultural
Text Digitizing Project



NAL Ongoing Digitization Activities

USAIN Preservation Program

USDA “DP3”

AgNIC Preservation Activities

*LOCKSS and LOCKSS DOCS

NAL Preservation Plan

*not discussed today



USAIN Preservation Program

1993 -- *A National Preservation
Program for Agricultural Literature*
by Nancy Gwinn

Focus on pre-1950 U.S.
publications

20 states participating

Cornell -- NEH grants for Core
Historical Literature Project



USDA Digital Publications Preservation Program -“DP3”



Genesis of DP3

- March 1997 National Conference:
“USDA Digital Publications: Creating a Preservation Action Plan”
 - Identified major elements and requirements of a USDA digital publications preservation plan
 - *Framework for the Preservation of and Permanent Public Access to USDA Digital Publications*
 - <http://preserve.nal.usda.gov:8300/npp/frameprt.html>



National DP3 Steering Committee

- Oversee implementation of the *Framework for the Preservation of and Permanent Public Access to USDA Digital Publications*
- Explore Issues of:
 - Inventory and Life Cycle Management
 - Technical Requirements
 - User Access and Retrieval

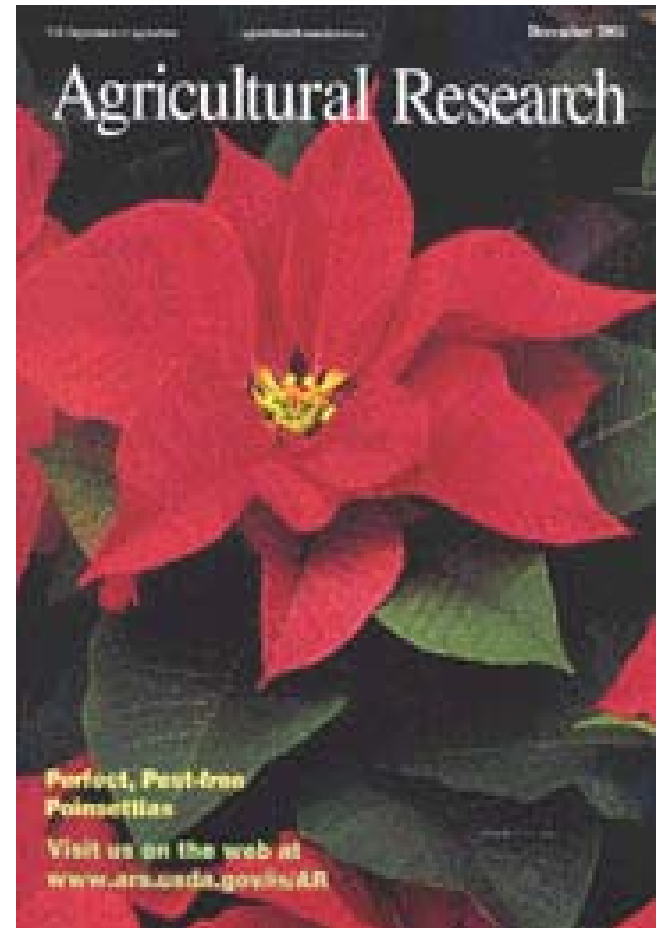


DP3 Digital Publication Definition

A data or information product prepared by the USDA in digital form intended to be disseminated to the public.

Sample USDA Digital Publication

- Welcome to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's science magazine, published monthly by the Agricultural Research Service and also available electronically.
- Click [here](#) to see table of contents for the June 2002 issue or [here](#) to view previous issues.
- For questions or comments, contact the [Editor](#).
- Agricultural Research Magazine
5601 Sunnyside Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705-5130
- Telephone (301) 504-1651 or (301) 504-1658.



Sample USDA Digital Publication





Key Issues Identified via DP3

- Managing Technology Over Time
- Metadata
- User Access
- Organizational Buy-In
- Operational Considerations
- Cost



DP3 Accomplishments

- Developed a survey instrument to identify digital publications produced by USDA. It was validated by a small-scale pilot project using the Economic Research Service as the pilot agency.



DP3 Accomplishments

- Metadata conference for USDA staff. The goal was to educate USDA information producers, IT professionals, webmasters, librarians, and public affairs specialists on opportunities for using metadata to improve customer access to information resources and enhance long-term preservation and access to these materials for future customers.



DP3 Accomplishments

- Developed draft digital preservation guidelines for USDA agencies producing digital publications
- Guidelines were sent to the USDA OCIO for comment and ultimately, approval as Departmental policy
- Established metadata standards that are now included in NAL metadata set
- It is anticipated that further guidelines will be developed



Challenges Still Ahead for USDA Digital Preservation

- Continue to get organizational buy-in
- Work with USDA eGovernment initiative to incorporate standard metadata into content management systems
- Develop and implement pilot projects with key USDA participants
- Develop Technical Requirements
- Manage Technology Over Time
- Obtain Funding for Digital Publication Preservation



AgNIC Preservation Activities

AgNIC = The Agriculture Network
Information Center Alliance –
www.agnic.org

Small program of grants to digitize key
publications and provide access to them

Generally USDA or state publications

Expect to be ongoing and key part of NDLA

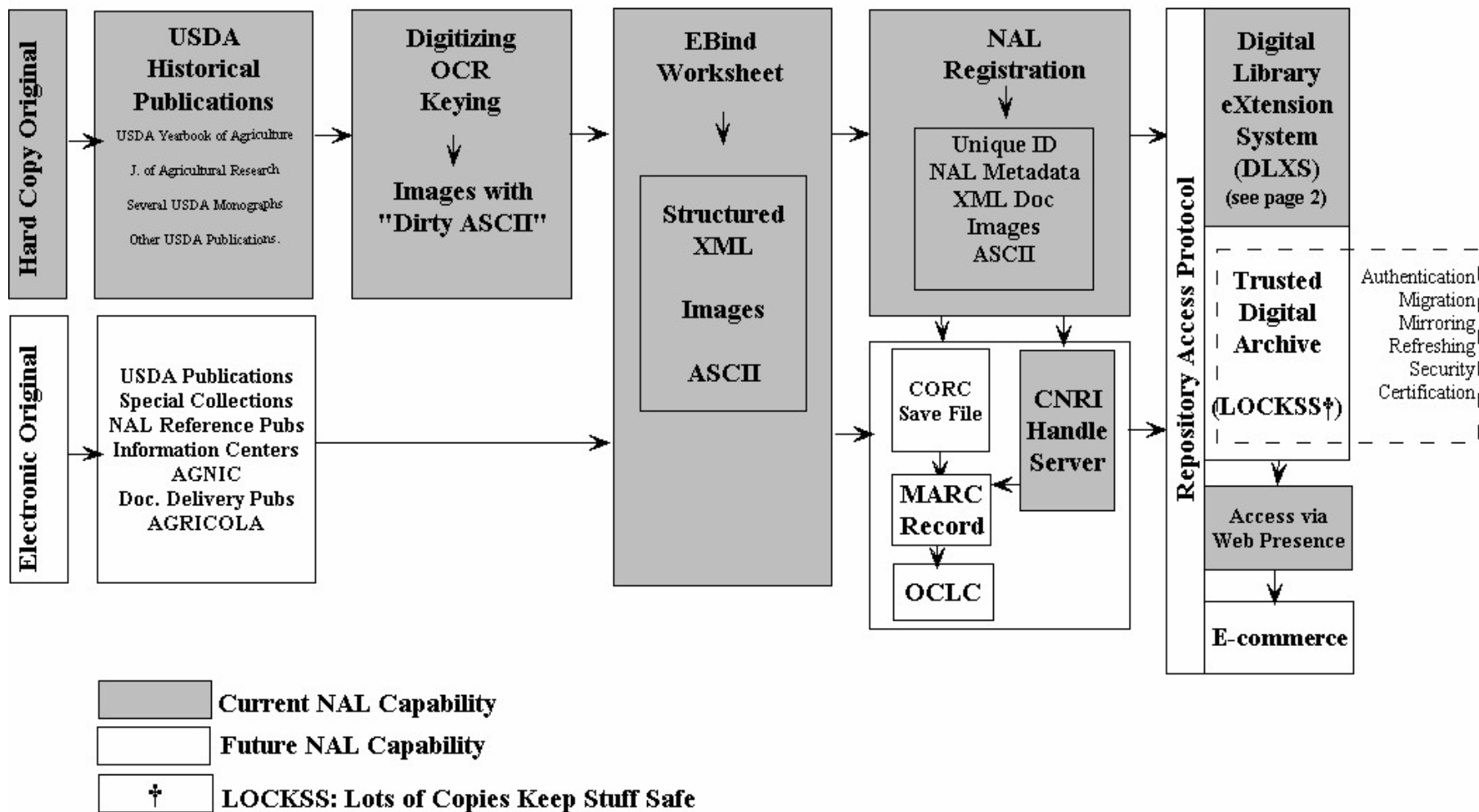


NAL Preservation Plan

- Investigate OAIS as possible model for application within USDA
- Look at OAIS as possible framework for NAL digital library, preservation and archiving efforts

NAL Digital Preservation and Archiving Prototype

OAIS: Open Archival Information System Protocols, Standards & Policies





For more information:

National Agricultural Library
Information Systems Division
10301 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Telephone: (301) 504-5018

E-mail: gmccone@nal.usda.gov

Web: www.nal.usda.gov/preserve